

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated September 22, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on December 22, 2005. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 24, 25, 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Shaw, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,813,493). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 24 recites the limitation of “engaging the upper tubular with a gripping assembly having at least one radially displaceable element for gripping the upper tubular, wherein the gripping assembly is connected to a top drive having a suspension unit.” In contrast to the gripping assembly with at least one radially displaceable element, *Shaw* discloses an elevator link adapter (reference number 134 in Figures 10A and 29) having a tubular threaded element (254 in Figure 29) that enables threaded connection to a tubular member. Therefore, *Shaw, et al.* fails to teach, show or suggest each and every limitation of claim 24. Applicant submits that claim 24 and all claims dependent thereon are allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 24, 25, 28 and 29.

New Claims

Applicant submits that the references of record fail to teach, show or suggest a method of facilitating making of a connection between an upper tubular and a lower tubular that includes providing a make-up unit having a top drive, a suspension unit and a tubular engagement tool, engaging the upper tubular with the tubular engagement tool, engaging a lower end of the upper tubular with an upper end of the lower tubular, rotating the upper tubular with the top drive via the tubular engagement tool, thereby threading the tubulars to form the connection, torquing the connection with the top drive via the tubular engagement tool, and compensating for movement of the upper tubular

with the suspension unit during the threading, as recited in new 31. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 31 and claims dependent thereon are all allowable and request allowance thereof.

Allowable Subject Matter

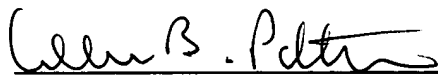
Claims 21-23 are allowed. Applicant acknowledges allowance of these claims.

Claims 26 and 27 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. In response, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable based at least on the traversal of the independent claims from which claims 26 and 27 depend. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Conclusion

The references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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